

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00  
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 CIEP-01 SP-02  
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /101 W  
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R 091721Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2537

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2843

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 12090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ENRG, IAEA, PARM, TECH, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN URANIUM EXPORT POLICY

REF EC BRUSSELS 11729

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO EC CUMES COMMENTED FURTHER TO US  
DEC 8 ON VISIT BY NUCLEAR SAFEGUARD TEAM REPORTED REFTEL. AS  
BACKGROUND, HE NOTED GROWING EC INTEREST IN NGOTIATING URANIUM  
SUPPLY DEALS WITH BOTH AUSTRALIA AND CANADA WHO WERE, FOR  
PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THE MAIN SOURCES OF FUTURE URANIUM SUPPLY TO  
EUROPE. WHILE GOA WAS STILL STRUGGLING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASPECTS OF EXPANDED PRODUCTION, HE THOUGH IT WOULD ULTIMATELY OPT  
FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION AND EXPORT IF PRICE WAS RIGHT AND "OTHER  
CONDITIONS" (E.G., EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS) WERE ASSURED. HE  
COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED AUSTRALIAN TEAM LEFT BRUSSELS IMPRESSED  
WITH EURATOM SAFEGUARD SYSTEM AND REGARDED IT AS MEETING  
AUSTRALIA'S REQUIREMENTS.

2. HE NOTED THAT AUSTRALIAN CAPACITY AND EUROPEAN FUTURE DEMAND  
WERE SUCH THAT, BY MID-80'S, URANIUM COULD WELL BECOME AUSTRALIA'S  
MAJOR EXPORT EARNER. EARLIER IN CONVERSATION, HE HAD CALLED  
ATTENTION TO RECENT SPEECH BY MINISTER SINCLAIR IN WHICH, AFTER  
COMPLAINING ABOUT JAPANESE RESTRICTIONS ON AUSTRALIAN MEAT IMPORTS,  
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SINCLAIR HAD POINTEDLY NOTED THAT JAPAN WAS ALSO TRYING TO

NEGOTIATE FOR IMPROVED TREATMENT AT AUSTRALIAN PORT FACILITIES.  
ALLEGEDLY PLY WORKED.

3. IT IS PERHAPS STRETCHING MATTERS BUT BEARING IN MIND THAT  
DURING EARLIER VISIT TO BRUSSELS, MINISTER SINCLAIR MENTIONED  
IN US AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE THAT EC INTEREST IN AUSTRALIAN  
URANIUM COULD PROVIDE USEFUL LEVERAGE ON CAP, WE THINK CUMES  
THINKS AUSTRALIA MIGHTIMPLICITLYLINK EC DESIRE FOR ACCESS TO  
URANIUM AND AUSTRALIAN OBJECTIVE FOR BETTER TREATMENT OF THEIR  
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS (MAINLY MEAT BUT ALSO CEREALS) TO EC AND  
THEIRD COUNTRY MARKETS AT SOME POINT DURING MTN. ON OTHER HAND,  
AMBASSADOR CUMES APPEARS TO BELIEVE THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN CAP  
WILL COME, IF AT ALL, LARGELY FROM INTERNAL PRESSURS IN EC AND  
THAT CANADIAN INTEREST IN BEING COMMUNITY'S URANIUM SOURCE  
MIGHT LIMIT AUSTRALIAN OPTIONS.

4. WE SUGGEST EMB CANBERRA MIGHT WISH TO COMMENT AND, WITHOUT  
REVEALING SOURCES, SHOULD BE ALERT TO EVIDENCE SUPPORTING  
OR DISAPPROVING POSSIBILITY OF LINKAGE OF URANIUM SUPPLY  
ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL MARKET ACCESS TO EC. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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